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While the Berrien County Trial Court routinely orders "no contact" in domestic violence or other assaultive crimes in defendant's orders at arraignment and makes their orders applicable to the defendant while in custody, there is debate about the authority to do so.

Contacting the victim or 3rd parties to contact the victim by inmates on these types of cases is rampant. Letters, phone contact and jail visitations for the purpose of influencing the victim is an everyday occurrence here.

To have the court's authority to order a "no contact" provision spelled out clearly would end the debate and firmly establish the practice.

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